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United Nations reform: measures and proposals

Letter dated 11 October 2017 from the Permanent Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I am pleased to transmit the Political Declaration for United Nations Reform, which was presented at a high-level event on 18 September (see annex).

The Declaration is an expression of robust support for your leadership in initiating effective, meaningful reform to make the United Nations fit for purpose, and is signed by 132 Member States. It was co-sponsored by the following Member States: Canada, Germany, Indonesia, Japan, Jordan, the Niger, Rwanda, Senegal, Slovakia, Thailand, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America and Uruguay, and endorsed by those in the attached list. We have collectively pledged our support in making your reform priorities a reality for the United Nations and wish you great success in your efforts.

We request that you circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 124.

(*Signed*) Nikki R. **Haley**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

17-19738 (E) 081117

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Annex to the letter dated 11 October 2017 from the Permanent Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Political Declaration for UN Reform High Level Event[1]

We thank Secretary-General Guterres for acting on his commitments to develop a robust reform agenda in areas of peace and security, development, and management. We, representing the undersigned Member States of the United Nations, hereby declare our commitment to the principles outlined herein to support the Secretary-General's leadership and transparency to initiate effective, meaningful reform to make the United Nations fit for purpose.

First, we declare our confidence in the Secretary-General's reform initiatives and encourage him to lead organizational reform.

Second, we commit to strengthening partnership and trust between and among Member States and the Secretariat to support reform efforts for a more effective and efficient Organization.

Third, we commit to supporting the Secretary-General to advance stronger collaboration across the United Nations system for improved mandate delivery.

Fourth, we encourage the Secretary-General to pursue impactful and field-centric management reforms.

Fifth, we commit to supporting the Secretary-General's progress in strengthening the United Nations system's accountability framework through enhancing transparency, strengthening oversight, and aligning authority with responsibility.

Sixth, we commit to reducing mandate duplication, redundancy, and overlap, including among the main organs of the United Nations.

Seventh, we commit to supporting the Secretary-General in developing human resources management policies that enable the Organization to continue to attract, develop, and retain high-performing staff members, and to promote gender parity and geographic diversity.

Eighth, we support the Secretary-General in strengthening the Organization's planning and budget functions to provide greater transparency and predictability on required resources.

Ninth, we support the Secretary-General in making concrete changes in the United Nations system to better align its work on humanitarian response, development, and sustaining peace initiatives.

Tenth, we recognize that each country has primary responsibility for its own economic and social development, and we further recognize the role of the United Nations in providing a platform for partnership to enable global sustainable development.

[1] This Declaration is not legally binding and does not affect the signatories' existing obligations under applicable international and domestic law. Rather, the signatures below reflect the high-level political commitments of the Member States represented.

Delegations signatory to the Political Declaration for United Nations Reform

Djibouti

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Jordan

Saint Lucia

Ukraine

Spain

Slovakia

Canada

The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

Benin

Uganda

Vanuatu

Morocco

Yemen

Luxembourg

Republic of Korea

Montenegro

Azerbaijan

Hungary

Slovenia

Malta

Sudan

Palau

Maldives

Germany

Greece

Tuvalu

Poland

Belgium

Czechia

Burkina Faso

Albania

Estonia

Georgia

Philippines

Andorra

Finland

Monaco

Lithuania

Israel

Kenya

Liberia

Uzbekistan

United Arab Emirates

Somalia

Burundi

Netherlands

New Zealand

Colombia

Italy

Australia

Thailand

Brunei

Equatorial Guinea

Republic of Moldova

Panama

Senegal

Peru

Nigeria

Sri Lanka

Tunisia

Bosnia and Herzegovina

Bangladesh

Romania

Latvia

Qatar

Mexico

Tonga

Marshall Islands

Uruguay

Algeria

Cyprus

Iraq

Austria

Indonesia

Namibia

Kuwait

Honduras

Malaysia

Bahrain

Japan

Myanmar

Switzerland

Seychelles

Liechtenstein

San Marino

Croatia

Bulgaria

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

Kazakhstan

Portugal

Paraguay

Turkey

Denmark

Dominican Republic

Norway

Sweden

Iceland

Oman

Solomon Islands

Federated States of Micronesia

Saudi Arabia

Serbia

Argentina

Lebanon

Papua New Guinea

Haiti

Rwanda

Niger

Libya

Timor-Leste

Jamaica

India

Ireland

Samoa

Kiribati

Mali

Nepal

Egypt

Ethiopia

Bhutan

Bahamas

Gambia

Cameroon

Mauritania

Costa Rica

France

Eritrea

Côte d'Ivoire

Viet Nam

Mongolia

Cabo Verde